Ten Questions to ask about words:

1. What word intrigues you most?
2. Is there a word that confuses you?
3. What word surprises you?
4. What word seems most metaphorical?
5. Is there a word that seems unnecessary?
6. What word is most important?
7. What is the most physical word in the poem?
8. What is the most specific word in the poem?
9. What is the strongest sound word in the poem?
10. What is the most dynamic verb in the poem?

Richard Wright Haiku: On a street in france/ a man sighs deeply, then smiles/the wind salutes him

\*Write a poem of two people talking in a car a la c.d. wright’s deepstep come shining (another long poem: Campbell McGrath’s The Bob Hope Poem)

Sample poem questions:

* How many sentences is the poem made up of?
* What happens in terms of structure in these sentences?
* What do the sentences have to do with one another? (e.g. relationship between the second and third?)
* What kinds of images are in the poem?
* What feeling does the poem leave you with? What causes that feeling?
* What makes it a complete poem?
* What effect does the personification have?
* What does the title have to do with the poem?
* Are the line breaks expected or unexpected?
* If the word \_\_\_ is removed, what difference does it make?
* What are the important adjectives? Why is each important?
* Where is the lens focused? Close? Far? Does it move?

What if questions for revising poems:

* What if the poem were longer/shorter?
* What if more/less metaphor is used?
* What if one moment in the poem is expanded?
* What if more detail is used?
* What if the poem begins at a different place?
* What if the poem changes its point of view?
* What if the verb tense changes?
* What if more adjectives are used?
* What if more strong verbs are used?
* What if all abstract/subjective words are deleted?
* What if all the senses are used?
* What if the soundscape is intensified/lessened?
* What if form is used?
* What if the architecture (stanzas) changes?
* What if more/less punctuation is used?
* What if appositives are used?
* What if line lengths change?
* What if syntax is changed?
* What if fragments are used rather than complete sentences?
* What if questions are asked in the poem?
* What if the ending changes?

See Wormser and Cappella page 59 for 15 suggestions for revising your poems.